

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the last paragraph on page 13, extending onto page 14, with the following amended paragraph:

As shown in FIG. 2, the radiation image information reading apparatus 10 comprises a cassette loader 38 for loading a plurality of cassettes 34~~12~~, a cassette unloader 40 (normal cassette storage unit) for unloading a plurality of cassettes 12 which have been processed in a normal state, a cassette storage unit (abnormal cassette storage unit) 41 for storing a cassette 12 that has been detected as in an abnormal state, a cassette feeder 42 for feeding a cassette 12 between the cassette loader 38, the cassette unloader 40, and the cassette storage unit 41, and a main unit 44 for reading recorded radiation image information from the stimuable phosphor panel 14 ejected from a cassette 12 in a normal state and erasing remaining radiation image information from the stimuable phosphor panel 14.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 16 with the following amended paragraph:

The cassette feeder 42 has a first processing mechanism 62 and a second processing mechanism 64 (discharging mechanism) for holding a cassette 12 supplied from the cassette loader 38. The first processing mechanism 62 is guided by upper and lower guide members 66, 68 and reciprocally movable from a first processor 70 disposed below the cassette loader 38 through a second processor 72 to a third processor 74. The second processing mechanism 64 is guided by the upper and lower guide members 66, 68 and reciprocally movable from the third processor 74 through a fourth processor 76 disposed below the cassette unloader 40 to a ~~first~~fifth processor 77 disposed below the cassette storage unit 41.